

**An Evening of Dance and Music with
Mikhail Baryshnikov and Mark Morris**

In Honor of Peter F. Vallone

**Florence Gould Hall
June 18, 1998**

PETER F. VALLONE Throughout his public life, New York City Council Speaker Peter Vallone has been a champion of the Arts. As a chief architect of New York City's revival, he has fought time and again against potentially harmful budget cuts to our city's cultural institutions while also nurturing developing programs. Since becoming Speaker in 1986, Peter Vallone has preserved New York's cultural centers by restoring hundreds of millions of dollars to City institutions. These cuts would have closed exhibits, reduced hours and ultimately would have led to the extinction of our smaller galleries, theatre and dance groups. He has been a leader in funding many new and exciting exhibits and programs and has been tremendously helpful in providing funds for important infrastructure projects and building revitalization. Vallone has also made Arts-in-Education programs a priority. These specially designed programs seek to educate students in the arts as a supplement to their regular studies. Speaker Peter F. Vallone and his wife Tena, a retired sixth grade teacher, live in Astoria, Queens. They have three sons and five grandchildren. He is a graduate of Fordham University and Fordham Law School.

MIKHAIL BARYSHNIKOV was born in Riga, Latvia, of Russian parents. He began studying ballet there, and after a few years, was accepted by the Vaganova School in Leningrad where he studied under the renowned teacher Alexander Pushkin. At 18, he entered the Kirov Ballet as a soloist and remained with the company from 1968 to 1974 until he left Russia. From 1974 to 1979, he danced with ballet and modern companies around the world. He was a principal dancer with the New York City Ballet from 1979-1980, and from 1980 until 1989 he was Artistic Director of American Ballet Theatre. In 1990 Mr. Baryshnikov founded the White Oak Dance Project with Mark Morris. He was the recipient of the New York Dance and Performance Award ("Bessie") in 1997.

MARK MORRIS was born on August 29, 1956 in Seattle, Washington, where he studied as a young man with Verla Flowers and Perry Brunson. He performed with a variety of companies in the early years of his career, including the Lar Lubovitch Dance Company, Hannah Kahn Dance Company, Laura Dean Dancers and Musicians, Eliot Feld Ballet, and the Koleda Balkan Dance Ensemble. He formed the Mark Morris Dance Group in 1980, and has since created over 90 works for the Dance Group, as well as choreographing dances for many ballet companies, including the San Francisco Ballet, the Paris Opera Ballet, and American Ballet Theatre. From 1988-1991 he was Director of Dance at the Théâtre Royal de la Monnaie in Brussels, the national opera house of Belgium. During his tenure there, he created 12 pieces including three evening-length works: *The Hard Nut* (his comic book-inspired version of *The Nutcracker*); *L'Allegro, il Penseroso ed il Moderato*; and *Dido and Aeneas*, and founded the White Oak Dance Project with Mikhail Baryshnikov. Mr. Morris is noted for his musicality - he has been described as "undeviating in his devotion to music" - and for his "ability to conjure so many contradictory styles and emotions". He has worked extensively in opera as both a choreographer and a director. Most recently, he directed and choreographed a Royal Opera, Covent Garden production of Rameau's *Platée* which premiered at the Edinburgh International Festival in 1997. Mr. Morris was named a Fellow of the MacArthur Foundation in 1991, and he is the subject of a biography by Joan Acocella (Farrar, Straus & Giroux).

Choreography by Mark Morris

THREE PRELUDES (1992)

Music: George Gershwin (Prelude I, Prelude II, Prelude III)

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Original Lighting: James F. Ingalls Costume: Isaac Mizrahi

ETHAN IVERSON, *piano*

MARK MORRIS

THREE RUSSIAN PRELUDES (1995)

Music: Dmitri Shostakovich

(24 Preludes and Fugues, Opus 87 -

Prelude No. 17 in A Flat Major, Prelude No. 22 in G Minor,

Prelude No. 15 in D Flat Major)

Original Lighting: Michael Chybowski Costume: Barbara Matera

ETHAN IVERSON, *piano*

MIKHAIL BARYSHNIKOV

A SPELL (1993)

Music: John Wilson ("Where the Bee Sucks," "Stay, O Stay,"

"Do Not Fear to Put Thy Feet," "Take, O Take Those Lips Away")

Original Lighting: Michael Chybowski Costumes: Susan Ruddle

EILEEN CLARK REISNER, *soprano*;

ETHAN IVERSON, *piano*

RUTH DAVIDSON, MARK MORRIS, GUILLERMO RESTO

PRINCE YELETSKY'S ARIA FROM *PIQUE DAME*

Music: P.I. Tchaikovsky ("Ya vas lyublyu bezmerno")

POPULAR SONG SELECTION

STEPHEN SALTERS, *baritone*

ETHAN IVERSON, *piano*

TEN SUGGESTIONS (1981)

Music: Alexander Tcherepnin (*Bagatelles, opus 5*)

Original Lighting: James F. Ingalls

ETHAN IVERSON, *piano*

MIKHAIL BARYSHNIKOV and MARK MORRIS

Ten Suggestions was originally choreographed as a solo.
For this special evening the two dancers will share the role.

EILEEN CLARK REISNER (soprano) recently appeared in the roles of Queen of the Night in *Die Zauberflöte* with Syracuse Opera and Adina in *L'Elisir d'amore* with Massachusetts Commonwealth Opera. A Bel Canto Foundation Award winner, she has performed for the past eleven years with the Gregg Smith Singers and can be heard on many of their recordings, as well as on the soundtrack of the recent film *Dead Man Walking*. She performs regularly as featured soloist with Ascension Music, including their recent performance of Mozart's Exultate Jubilate. She holds degrees from Syracuse University and University of North Dakota, and has studied with Carlo Bergonzi and Julianne Baird.

RUTH DAVIDSON, a native New Yorker, has enjoyed dancing with the Mark Morris Dance Group since its first performance in 1980. She has studied consistently with Jocelyn Lorenz since 1979.

ETHAN IVERSON (piano) In January 1998 Ethan Iverson took his place at the feet of the Mark Morris Dance Group. Best-known in the world of jazz, Iverson can be heard on recent CD releases by Reid Anderson and Patrick Zimmerli and on his own 1993 CD "School Work", which features the legendary saxophonist Dewey Redman and was chosen by the *Village Voice* as a Jazz Record of the Year. In 1997 Iverson was the soloist in an avant-garde rendition of "Rhapsody in Blue" and was also seen on PBS playing the music of Astor Piazzolla with cellist Yo-Yo Ma. His piano teachers are Sophia Rosoff and Fred Hersch.

GUILLERMO RESTO has danced with Mark Morris since 1983.

STEPHEN SALTERS (baritone), First Place Winner of the 1996 Queen Elisabeth International Competition for Singing, First Place Winner of the 1996 International Puccini-Licia Albanese Competition, National Winner of the Leontyne Price Vocal Arts Competition, recipient of the Esther B. Kahn Career Entry Award, and 1996 nominee for the Marian Anderson Award, completed his Artist Diploma degree at Boston University studying with Phyllis Curtin. As a consummate recitalist, concert singer, and opera performer, he has been heard throughout the United States, Canada, Russia, and Europe in live performances, radio broadcasts, and on several CD's in repertoire ranging from Baroque to Contemporary. This past summer he sang the role of Captain Balstrode in *Peter Grimes* with Seiji Ozawa at Tanglewood commemorating the 50th Anniversary of the American Premiere. For the 1996-1997 season he debuted at the Opera de Bastille and Palais Garnier in *Guilio Cesare* (conductor Ivor Bolton), *Rigoletto* (conductor James Conlon), *Carmen* (conductor Gary Bertini), and *Madame Butterfly* (conductor Maurizio Benini). In 1997-1998 he sang at the Bastille in *Tristan und Isolde* (conductor James Conlon) and *Billy Budd* as well as the title role in *Don Giovanni* for a production for the Centre de Formation Lyrique with Martin Isepp, conductor and Dominique Pitoiset, director. Next year brings many debuts and return performances in Europe and the United States in opera, oratorio and recitals.

PRODUCTION STAFF

Technical Director: Johan Henckens
Lighting Supervisor: Rick Martin
Wardrobe Supervisor: Patricia White
Sound Supervisor: Russell Smith